ANCIENT SKIES

"Come Search With Us!"

Official Logbook of the Ancient Astronaut Society

(c) Copyright 1989 Ancient Astronaut Society - All Rights Reserved
VOLUME 16, NUMBER 2, 1921 ST. JOHNS AVE., HIGHLAND PARK, ILLINOIS 60035-3105 USA MAY-JUNE, 1989

GODS OR SPACEMEN?

BY W. RAYMOND DRAKE*

Legends from far antiquity evoke within our wondering minds race memories of that Golden Age when Earth was young and Man basked in idyllic spring, communed with the stars and hearkened to the wisdom of the Gods. All over the world Man turned his eyes aloft to the mountains expecting those divine Teachers from space; so holy were the hilltops that millenia later peoples everywhere built their temples and pyramids like artificial hills and worshipped the Gods in the skies. After shattering catastrophes, space communications ceased; the stricken survivors were left in isolation to build up civilization with prayers to the heavens to help them again.

This novel picture startles us; we sophisticates are so conditioned to boast our scientific twentieth century as the loftiest peak of human evolution on the only inhabited planet in the vast universe that suggestions of visitors from space to civilizations of long ago not only confound our fundamental beliefs but flout our common sense. We, who pride ourselves on our reason and enlightenment, only believe what we choose to believe and close our eyes to the age-old evidence of spacemen before our very eyes. Our centripetal approach to knowledge means that even the most gifted intellectual is thrust ever deeper into a widening perimeter of ignorance; specialists drift farther from each other until it seems that no living mind can possibly synthesize the grand design of the universe.

The Ancients thought centrifugally, they attuned their minds to the very soul of Creation divining the master plan of the Cosmos; by knowing the whole they knew all the parts. While our men of genius delve deeply into fundamental researches of great brilliance, such specialization inevitably means that outside their particular studies even these experts are obliged to accept the conventional image of the universe and its history, now decades out of date.

After a dramatic somersault our top astronomers are now proclaiming to deaf ears that in our galaxy alone exist hundreds of thousands of suns each with probable worlds like our Earth. Many must logically have cultures transcending our own. Since we hope to visit them, we should not be surprised if they are - indeed if they have been - visiting us. In fact, great radio telescopes listen attuned for intelligent signals from space; and it seems that only the fear of ridicule prevents the scientists from acknowledging those spaceships haunting our skies.

Anthropologists now speculate whether primitive peoples are really the degenerate descendants of the great civilizations whose megaliths tower in every land. Direct evidence from the remote past is limited to a few scattered fossils and weather-eroded petroglyphs bearing cryptic symbols we cannot read. Catastrophic earthquakes, fires, floods and waves of barbarism destroyed the written records, and memories of the mighty civilizations filtering down through countless generations inevitably become confused into folk tales, which we today with our twentieth-century minds interpret in terms totally foreign to conditions of the past. If any records from antiquity survived to the historical era, they were probably burned in Caesar's destruction of the great library at Alexandria, Egypt, and destroyed by megalomaniac Roman emperors or fanatical Christians like the seventeenth-century Bishop Diego de Landa in Mexico who destroyed the priceless Mayan records as works of the Devil.

Theories by astronomers, geologists and paleontologists abound in bewildering profusion, but the only real evidence from the far past must be found in the legends of all nations, narrated by Babylonian, Egyptian, Greek and Roman writers, as well as the Popul Vuh of Mexico and our own Bible. The revelations of Mu by James Churchward and conjectures on Atlantis by Ignatius Donnelly and his hosts of disciples, all paint fascinating panoramas of prehistory which are not readily acceptable to our conventional thought.

Logic would suggest that if advanced Beings do exist on other worlds as some astronomers declare, we should not be too astonished if some did visit our Earth in ages past. Despite our own swift developments in rocketry, objectors may argue that the planets and certainly the stars are too far away. But the great cosmic intelligences may have discovered shortcuts through hyperspace.

We seriously advance the theory that in remote times all the planets in our solar system were very

(Continued on next page)

*This issue of Ancient Skies is dedicated to the memory of W. Raymond Drake, who suffered a fatal heart attack on April 1, 1989. He was 76.

Mr. Drake was one of the first writers in the ancient astronaut field. His first book, Gods or Spacemen? appeared in the United States in 1964, and was followed by his Gods and Spacemen series, including Ancient East, Ancient West, Ancient Past, Throughout History, Greece and Rome and Ancient Israel. Caught up in the boycott by publishers in England and the United States against ancient astronaut works, Mr. Drake's last book was published in India under the title Cosmic Continents. Mr. Drake also wrote many poems, plays and novels.

A retired customs official, Mr. Drake spent the last 25 years of his life promoting "our Spaceman Crusade" by distributing freely thousands of his books and tapes to students and scholars throughout the world from his home in Sunderland, England.

Mr. Drake delivered lectures at the Ancient Astronaut Society's World Conferences in Zurich in 1975 and in Yugoslavia in 1976.

(Continued from previous page)
much nearer to Earth and Sun. The era of modern astronomy has been too short to detect any noteworthy variations in the planetary distances, although it is alleged that the year is growing seconds longer, suggesting a gradual lengthening of orbit.

The Ancients believed in twelve planets; we see only nine. Have the others wandered out into space as erratic Pluto threatens to do?

Only a century ago classical scholars laughed with amusement when a wealthy German grocer, Heinrich Schliemann, announced his intention of digging up Troy; for the whole world knew that Homer's Iliad was only a fascinating epic poem compounded from minstrels' tales ages before. Schliemann had the credulity to believe that Agamemnon, Achilles and Hector really did live in Homeric Greece, that Helen's beauty really did launch a thousand ships,that the Iliad, like the dispatch of a war correspondent really did describe in topographical detail the actual site of Troy; no wonder the professors thought him crazy! In 1868 Schliemann with Homer as his guide surveyed the mound at Hissarlik in Turkey and declared that underneath was Troy. Watched by the grinning world he began to dig, and lo and behold, a few feet down he found Priam's palace. Five years later his eyes caught through the mud the glint of gold; he bent down and picked up a collection of brooches, chains and bracelets; the golden diadem of Helen herself. Troy passed from myth to history.

What if we emulate Schliemann and read the old legends as real history? What revelations shall we unearth?

The ancient myths agree that beings of transcendent wisdom and beauty descended from the skies, usually landing in mountainous regions, where sometimes they summoned chosen leaders to those holy mountains to reveal to them cosmic mysteries or prophecies of cataclysms to come. Legends and folklore everywhere agree with Genesis that there were giants in the Earth in those days. Earth was probably much nearer the Sun and basked in tropical climate with luxuriant vegetation, a veritable Eden. Possibly millions of years ago, the then Moon, a predecessor of our present satellite, loomed close to the Earth; its powerful gravitational attraction, allied with more potent cosmic rays, produced giantism not only on the prehistoric animals, but on Man himself. With the destruction of the Moon the stature of mankind diminished, but some giant races took ages to die out. David slew Goliath in Canaan, Hercules defeated many giants,Ulysses blinded the one-eyed Polyphemus, Beowulf killed the giant Grendel, while the Chinese reminisce about the giants of the Fourth Root Race, possibly the Atlanteans. The Giants of Old lie buried in lands now ocean beds, their bones pulverized to dust; occasionaly giant fossils are found in caves or coal seams, and many gigantic weapons and implements are unearthed on prehistoric sites. But the greatest memory of the giants lies in fairy tales, those repositories of race memory, and in the cyclopean stone colossi raised by the Ancients all over the Earth.

Berossus, a Babylonian who flourished in the reign of Alexander and lived some time in Athens, wrote his Chaldean history in the Greek language. As priest of Belus he possessed every advantage which the Chaldeans could afford and seems to have composed his work with a serious regard for truth. He made the fabulous claim that Alorus, the first King of Babylon, reigned 488,000 years before the Flood, from which the hero, Ut Napishtim, and his family escaped in an Ark, like Noah. Berossus said that the earliest chronicles narrated that the first inhabitants of the Earth, glorying in their own strength and despising the Gods, undertook to raise a tower whose top should reach the sky, where Babylon now stands, but when it approached the heavens the winds assisted the Gods and overturned the work upon its contrivers.The Gods introduced a diversity of tongues among men, who till that time had all spoken the same language. The place in which they built the tower is now called Babylon, on account of the confusion of tongues, for "confusion" is by the Hebrews called babel.

Berossus also described an animal endowed with reason called "Oannes" with the body of a fish but with articulate voice. This Being in the daytime used to converse with men but took no food; he gave men an insight into letters and sciences and every kind of art, and taught agriculture and all the skills to humanize mankind. Oannes taught of the ancient days when men had wings. This Being used to plunge into the sea and abide in the deep; however in esoteric language the sea and the deep often meant the "waters" of space. Oannes may have been a Space Being; his alleged resemblance to a fish may possibly have been some garbled memory of his space suit.

Many of the Babylonian Gods were represented by stars; the famous astrologers associated Gods with the planets, and intercourse between Gods and mortals formed the theme of the Gilgamesh Epic. The great winged bulls which guarded the palaces of Babylon and Nineveh were closely identified with Chaldean astronomy; like the Sphinx they often bore human features symbolizing divine Beings. The old Akkadian word for "bull" was usually translated into Babylonian as "hero" or "strong one."

Abraham, who sided with the Gods (Spacemen), was sentenced by Nimrod to be burned at the stake, but the wood would not burn as the priests said an angel (Space Being) was flying around putting the fire out. Finally Nimrod made war on Abraham, who called down an immense sun-darkening cloud of gnats, which devoured Nimrod's soldiers to the very bones. Surely a perfect description of the atom bomb on Hiroshima! In the same war Angels (Spacemen) warned Abraham and Lot of the imminent destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, whose inhabitants were blinded or killed; they were said to be Giants, and their cities were blasted with all the horror of nuclear explosion. The Soviet scientist M. A. Agrest propounds the theory that Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by nuclear power and suggests that the intriguing tektites found in deserts are caused by fusion due to radiation from spaceships.

The strongest evidence of all proving the existence of the Space Beings and their war with earthly Giants is surely to be found in our Bible in the Book of Genesis. Let us for the moment rid our conditioned minds of centuries-old dogma, no easy matter, and emulating Schliemann reading the Iliad, accept Genesis as basically true. Like the Iliad, Genesis consists of stories, sung by Semitic minstrels, which hundreds of years later were committed to writing by poet-priests from whose manuscripts long afterward Moses compiled the Book of Genesis to inspire the Children of Israel. The Lord admonishes Adam because Eve has sinned and casts them out of the Garden of Eden, which is guarded by cherubim with flaming swords. Who was this Lord, who drove Adam from earthly paradise out into the wilderness? Did Adam not resist? If Genesis means what it so plainly says, the Lord was no intangible spirit or the voice of conscience,but a powerful Being, a Spaceman,with squadrons of winged globes or fiery wheels, the occult translation of Cherubim.

The accumulated traditions from every country in the world reviewed in the light of our new knowledge seems to tell the same story of Spacemen visiting our Earth long ago. This revelation illumines the old legends in glorious wonder and imbues the dusty religious dogmas with thrilling life.Man is no longer alone; his eyes are opened at last; he soars from his earthly prison and joins his Space Brothers to marvel at the imminent living God behind the whole glittering universe.

What has been shall be again; the Future lies in the Past.

THE "STONE AGE" IN CHECKMATE

BY CARL P. MUNCK*

In our studies of the earliest recorded expressions of man, there is one realm of communication which has been completely overlooked - mathematics, the universal language. While we occasionally try to alter its delivery, we are powerless to change its laws. It even is capable of being transmitted without written expression. Language and writing are subject to their own evolutionary processes, but mathematics is constant.

The ancients knew this as well as we do and, by carefully keying recognizable data to the constants in physics, mathematics, geodetics and possibly even cosmology, arranged all their pyramids, henges, dolmens and geometrical earthworks in such a way as to commit their levels of scientific achievement to this enormous "communications system" in order that they should not be forgotten by history.

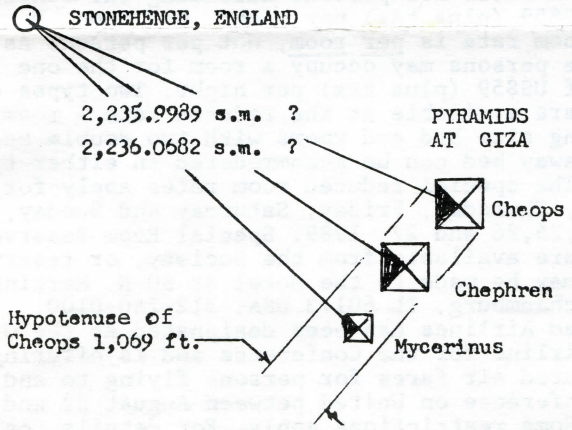
While we have, in fact, relegated the ancients to a stone age of ignorance, their wisdom in selecting mathematics as a viable language shall ultimately force the inevitable rewrite. To cite but one of thousands of examples available to us:

A geodetical constant is the Earth's equatorial radius of 3,963.205 statute miles.

A mathematical constant is the square root of pi of 1.772453851.

3,963.205 divided by 1.772453851 = 2,235.9989

Using the coordinates (latitude and longitude) of England's Stonehenge, as furnished by the British Consulate in New York, the computers of the National Geodetic Survey in Rockville, Maryland, USA, show that the surface distance over the Earth to the pyramid complex at Giza in Egypt embraces 2,236.0682 statute miles, a difference of only 360 feet. This is insignificant when we consider that the hypotenuse of the Great Pyramid is 1,069 feet, that Giza's pyramids appear in different places on modern topographical maps, that the trigonometrics used today by which surface distances are computed yield different results by different people and that any plot for latitude and longitude (according to the National Geodetic Survey-1988) is deemed to be reliable only within a tolerance of one second of arc. Any way we might care to view it, the positioning of Stonehenge addressed two sciences, geodetics and mathematics, when geodetic knowledge was supposed to have reached no further than the horizons.



The ancients knew the constants, they knew their math and they even knew our "mile." Considering our own shortcomings in geodetics, one might wonder whose measurement is correct, ours or theirs. Language, data and knowledge without writing - the realm of archaeometrology.

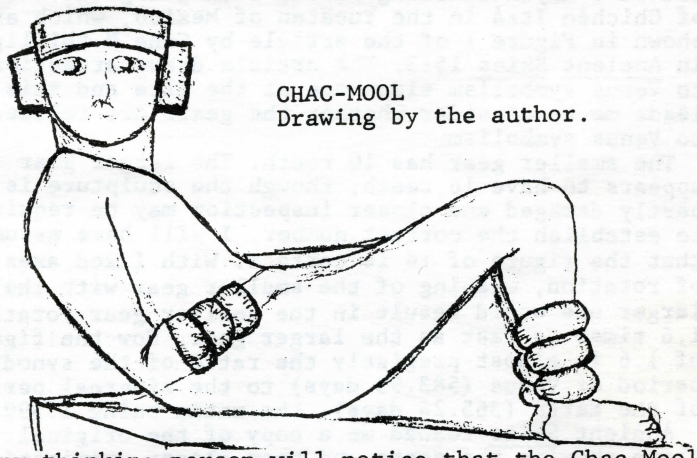
*Mr. Munck is an archaeometrologist. His address is P.O.Box 147, Greenfield Center, New York 12833 USA.

CHAC-MOOL

The stone sculptures called "Chac-Mool" by the archaeologists (nobody knows their real name) originated in the Mayan area of Yucatan, Mexico and were later grotesquely copied by the Aztecs. The figures represent an individual reclining and holding a disk over the solar plexus. The position of the body is very similar to that of the main figure on the sarcophagus cover at Palenque, Mexico, which Erich von Daniken has very accurately described as an astronaut in his spacecraft cabin.

In his book The Ancient Maya, Sylvanus G. Morley, the archaeologist who directed the restoration of the Mayan ruins at Chichén Itzá, states that no less than a dozen of such statues were found there and that their sizes range from larger than life to a little smaller. The Chac-Mools at Chichén Itzá were usually found on each side of the entrance to the temples, causing Morley to suggest that the "platters" held by the figures may have been used to deposit offerings.

Be it nearsightedness or lack of imagination, some archaeologists have actually concluded that the disk was a platter where the priests deposited the hearts of the sacrificed maidens. However, they have never explained the meaning of the figures.



CHAC-MOOL
Drawing by the author.

Any thinking person will notice that the Chac-Mool resembles a modern-day astronaut reclining on the couch during lift-off, with an instrument box near the chest. Also, the similarity of the figure's headpiece with a helmet and earphones is obvious.

Were the Chac-Mools sculpted in memory of ancient astronauts?

Elizabeth Rohrer, Perla 301B-1, Frace. Guadalupe, Leon, Guanajuato, MEXICO.

Graphics by Rolf R. Roesel, Viernheim, West Germany

ARK-OLOGIST TO SPEAK AT CHICAGO CONFERENCE

David Fasold, a former merchant marine officer who has turned explorer, will present a slide lecture on his co-discovery of Noah's Ark at the Ancient Astronaut Society's 16th Anniversary World Conference to be held in the Chicago area in August 1989.

Since 1985 Mr. Fasold has made four expeditions to the mountain site in Turkey to study the remains of what he believes to be the actual ship in which the patriarch Noah and his family survived the Deluge described in the Book of Genesis in the Holy Bible. His slide presentation graphically details his findings at the site and describes the evidence upon which he bases his conclusion.

Now styling himself as an "ark-ologist",Mr.Fasold has published his findings in The Ark of Noah, a hardcover book available from Wynwood Press, New York,NY, or from the author at 9921 Carmel Mtn.Rd., San Diego,CA 92129 USA. Publication of the book was delayed at the request of the Turkish government until the site could be protected as a national park.

MORE ON THE STONE GEARS AT CHICHÉN ITZÁ

I was intrigued by the meshing stone gears sculpted on a Mayan building at the archaeological site of Chichén Itzá in the Yucatan of Mexico, which are shown in Figure 1 of the article by Gene M.Phillips in Ancient Skies 15:3. The article draws attention to Venus symbolism elsewhere at the site and this leads me to consider whether the gears are related to Venus symbolism.

The smaller gear has 10 teeth. The larger gear appears to have 16 teeth, though the sculpture is partly damaged and closer inspection may be required to establish the correct number. I will here assume that the figure of 16 is correct. With fixed axes of rotation, meshing of the smaller gear with the larger one would result in the smaller gear rotating 1.6 times as fast as the larger gear. Now the figure of 1.6 is almost precisely the ratio of the synodic period of Venus (583.93 days) to the sidereal period of the Earth (365.26 days), the ratio being 1.599.

Ancient Skies loaned me a copy of the original photo showing the gears and upon closer examination I noticed that the large gear is not circular, but square with 4 teeth on each side. This suggests an equally interesting connection with Venus. If the square is held fixed and the smaller circular gear is rotated around the square, the small gear has to rotate a quarter turn at each corner of the square to stay in mesh. It therefore rotates 2.6 times during one complete trip around the square. The figure of 2.6 is almost precisely the ratio of the synodic period of Venus (583.92 days) to the sidereal period of Venus (224.7 days), the ratio being 2.599.

There doesn't appear to be any particular advantage in expressing time intervals in terms of numbers of rotations of a gear, and the above conjectures may only be coincidental. I would welcome comment from readers of Ancient Skies.

Dr. Stuart W. Greenwood, 5004 Laguna Road, College Park, Maryland 20740 USA.

ERICH VON DANIKEN's latest book, Die Augen der Sphinx (The Eyes of the Sphinx) is available in German from C. Bertelsmann, Munich, West Germany.

ANCIENT SKIES is published bi-monthly by the ANCIENT ASTRONAUT SOCIETY, 1921 St. Johns Ave., Highland Park, Illinois 60035-3105 USA,for distribution to its members. Tel. (312) 295-8899.

The Ancient Astronaut Society, founded in 1973, is a tax-exempt, not-for-profit corporation organized exclusively for scientific, literary and educational purposes.

MEMBERS ARE URGED TO REGISTER NOW

for the Ancient Astronaut Society's 16th Anniversary World Conference to be held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 25,26 and 27, 1989 at the Schaumburg Marriott Hotel in Schaumburg, Illinois, a suburb just west of Chicago's O'Hare Field.

An exciting program of three full days of lectures and slide presentations will feature Erich von Daniken (Switzerland), author of Chariots of the Gods? and other books in the ancient astronaut field; Zecharia Sitchin (USA), author of The 12th Planet and other books; Vincent DiPietro (USA) and Gregory Molenaar (USA), the Mars Face research team; George Sassoon (England), co-author of The Manna Machine; two scientists from the Soviet Union, Dr. Vladimir Avinsky and Dr.Vladimir Rubtsov; David Fasold (USA), co-discoverer of Noah's Ark; James Onan (USA), builder of the Gold Pyramid House at Wadsworth,Illinois; and Kenneth McCulloch (Canada), Gerardo Levet (Mexico), Johannes Fiebag (West Germany), Walter Langbein (West Germany), Kumar Uttam (Bangladesh),Dr. Pasqual Schievella (USA), Dr. Stuart Greenwood (USA), Dr. James Deardorff (USA), Dr. Ivan Watkins(USA), James Marshall (USA), Vaughn Greene (USA), Richard Crowe (USA) and Gene Phillips (USA). All lectures will be presented in English.

But the Conference won't be all work. After the lectures on Friday, the Society will host a Tent Reception for all persons attending the Conference and on Saturday evening a Gala Banquet will be held in the Marriott's Grand Ballroom. Over 200 persons are expected to attend the Banquet, which will feature The Continental Duo - strings with gypsy airs, and a fun-filled evening with Nick Tomei, magical entertainer.

The admission price for all lectures is US$15 per day per person. The Friday ticket includes admission to the Tent Reception, with a cash bar.

The Gala Banquet price of US$35 per person includes a choice of New York Strip Steak, Salmon or Chicken Breast Wellington. A cash bar will be open throughout the evening. Dress is optional.

The Schaumburg Marriott Hotel offers a variety of activities, including two swimming pools (indoor and outdoor), a sauna and exercise room, three restaurants and close proximity to Woodfield Shopping Mall and Arlington Park horse race track.

The Hotel offers a choice of smoking and non-smoking sleeping rooms, a guest laundry facility and hundreds of free parking spaces surrounding the Hotel. Free transportation is provided to and from Woodfield Shopping Mall and reduced rate transportation is available to and from O'Hare Field.

The Schaumburg Marriott is offering fantastically low room rates for persons attending the Conference, only US$59 (plus tax) per night, per room. Note that this room rate is per room, not per person. As many as five persons may occupy a room for the one low rate of US$59 (plus tax) per night. Two types of rooms are available at the reduced rate - rooms with one king size bed and rooms with two double beds. A rollaway bed can be accommodated in either type room. The special reduced room rates apply for four nights, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 24,25,26 and 27, 1989. Special Room Reservation Cards are available from the Society, or reservations may be made to the Hotel at 50 N. Martingale Rd., Schaumburg, IL 60173 USA, 312-240-0100.

United Airlines has been designated as the Official Airline for the Conference and is offering discounted air fares for persons flying to and from the Conference on United between August 22 and 30, 1989. Some restrictions apply. For details, call Judy Gibbs at 800-323-8158 or 312-432-2400.

B. Dalton Bookseller of Woodfield Mall will manage the Conference Bookstore, which will be open at convenient times throughout the Conference.

DON'T MISS this rare opportunity to meet your favorite authors and researchers in the ancient astronaut field. It won't happen again in the United States until 1995. REGISTER NOW!